



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

Established in 1970

September 2022 - Vol. 29 No. 7

The Beauty of Science: How Art Can Help Protect and Conserve

Bird Populations is the title of this virtual program to be presented by Tara Kate for SIAS on **Friday, September 23rd at 7 P.M.** See Zoom invite & instructions below and to the left.

In this talk, you'll learn an artist's perspective on the "beauty of science" — how artists can collaborate with scientists and birders to create compelling imagery that not only helps to inform and educate but also forges emotional connections that can motivate protection and conservation.

Tara Kate (Robinson) is a bird artist and illustrator. She creates highly detailed drawings and paintings of Oregon birds and their habitats. Influenced by her background as a field ecologist, she depicts subtle details with biological accuracy. She works in graphite, colored pencil, and acrylics.

To learn more, visit <http://www.tarakatedesigns.com/>.

All SIAS members should take a short period of time to visit the zoom website and join before Friday so that accessing will be painless for the meeting. It is free to all to join to view and participate in meetings and SIAS is now an official license holder to schedule and run meetings.

Instructions for signing into the SIAS Zoom presentation:

Time: September 23, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time

Join SIAS Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87693217508?pwd=Q0kxWXU5amlLZGIVNGtDczFSakVCZz09>

If you have to type in the link, use this shortened version:

<https://tinyurl.com/53s8hfs5>

Meeting ID: 876 9321 7508

Passcode: 652269

Dial in by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Dial-ins, be prepared to provide the following Meeting ID & Passcode

Meeting ID: 876 9321 7508

Passcode: 652269

Or find your local number at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87693217508?pwd=Q0kxWXU5amlLZGIVNGtDczFSakVCZz09>

SIAS Meeting & Program Calendar

Sept. 25th SIAS Fall Picnic at Evergreen Park, Carbondale

Oct. 28th Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Kelly McKay

Nov./Dec. combined meeting (to avoid holiday conflicts) will be held

on Dec. 2nd Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Tara Beveroth

Jan. 27th Annual meeting, program, and possible potluck

August SIAS Program Highlights: This first of fall presentation via zoom featured Jeff Hoover, Avian Ecologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois and cowbird mafia informant. He and his students have been studying the effects of forest management on breeding birds within the Trail of Tears State Forest of Union County. In this program, Jeff offered a review of their study. He also included some study results on cowbird parasitism in forested areas where acquisition and reforestation efforts increased forest size in and around the Cache.

Jeff and his team's work in Trail of Tears evaluated population density for four grades of habitats. Untreated areas are used as a control. The other habitats are (2) lightly thinned and burnt, (3) burnt at extended intervals, and (4) burnt at frequent intervals. The burns were not exactly uniform in character as some portions of the tracts are drier or wetter depending on topography. *(story continued on the 3rd page of the newsletter)*



SIAS Fall Picnic Sept. 25th at Evergreen Park & IOS Big Sit Fundraiser then and there too!

SIAS is having a **Fall Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 25th** at Evergreen Park, Carbondale. Arrive at 1 p.m. for set up and socializing. We will eat at 2 P.M. SIAS will provide the meats (& a non-meat option), buns, condiments, and some beverages. Please bring a side dish, your own plate, utensils, and a beverage.

Meet at the Red Oak Shelter. Directions (from IL Rt. 51 a.k.a. South Illinois Avenue): Take IL Rt. 51 south from Carbondale to the stop-light intersection with Pleasant Hill Rd., turn west onto Pleasant Hill Rd., follow it to west most park entrance, turn south, follow road south then east to the small shelter near the water.

SIAS Little Egypt Birdwatchers (Modicum Aegyptus Auspices)* formally the Bird Blitzers, are participating in the **IOS Fall Big Sit that same day, Sunday Sept. 25th, all day at Red Oak Shelter in Evergreen Park!** Join Vicki Lang, Kimberly Rohling, and Rhonda Rothrock from 6:44 a.m. to 6:44 p.m. (or any time in between) in our attempt to identify and count as many bird species as we can in one day from a stationary, 20-foot diameter, area. Folks are welcome to join in on the count for whatever period of time they choose or just come visit throughout the day, before, during, or after the SIAS picnic.

This is a fundraiser for the Illinois Ornithological Society's (IOS) Grant Program funding state-wide avian studies. SIAS has funded grants supporting studies in southernmost IL through IOS in the past. If you would like to donate in support of our team, do so at the website link <https://tinyurl.com/2unc94p5> Scroll down all the way to the bottom left to where it says: *Support Modicum Aegyptus Auspices* or just contact Rhonda at woodthrusheola@hotmail.com.

* Modicum Aegyptus Auspices [Modicum is Latin for little. Aegyptus is Latin for Egypt. 'Auspices' is from the Latin auspiciu and auspex, literally "one who looks at birds (for omens). And yes, it's Latin not Arabic.]

Learn why southernmost Illinois is called Little Egypt at <https://tinyurl.com/5bkh2x6n>

What Happening in Southernmost IL...

...lots and lots of things, most on Sept. 24th & 25th!

National Public Lands Day, Saturday, Sept. 24!

Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, National Public Lands Day is traditionally the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort. It celebrates the connection between people and green space in their community, inspires environmental stewardship, and encourages use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits.

Garden of the Gods, SNF, Trash Blast

Sept. 24th, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

On National Public Lands Day, the Friends of the Shawnee National Forest will be doing its part to keep Garden of the Gods in the Shawnee looking beautiful by hosting a trash blast clean-up that day. Volunteers will meet at the Garden of the Gods Observation Trail parking lot. Recommended items to bring include sturdy hiking boots, work gloves, water, and a snack. Friends of the Shawnee will provide other items including grabbers, buckets, trash bags, etc. For more details, visit: https://www.facebook.com/shawneefriends/?ref=page_internal

Nonnative Invasive Species Removal Seminar

Sept. 24th, at 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Rim Rock's Dogwood Cabins

The Friends of the Shawnee National Forest is hosting a training on cut stump herbicide treatment. Cut stump herbicide treatment is a way to control woody nonnative invasive plant species, such as autumn olive. Learn the basics in land and trail stewardship so to help return the Shawnee NF to its natural state. Instructors are Shannan Sharp and Jonathan Jackson from the U.S. Forest Service. Location: Rim Rock's Dogwood Cabins, 798 Karbers Ridge Rd, Elizabethtown. Registration required. For more info or to register, visit: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=26381>

Pounds Hollow Recreation Area, SNF, Trash Blast

Sept. 24th, 12:00 p.m. - 3 p.m.

The Friends of the Shawnee National Forest will be doing its part to keep Pounds Hollow Recreation Area looking beautiful by hosting a trash blast clean-up. Meet at Pounds Hollow beach parking lot. Recommended items to bring include sturdy hiking boots, work gloves, water, and a snack. Friends will provide other items including grabbers, buckets, trash bags, etc. For more details or to confirm your attendance, visit: https://www.facebook.com/shawneefriends/?ref=page_internal

SIAS Fall Picnic & IOS Big Sit Fundraiser

Sunday, Sept. 25th at Evergreen Park, Carbondale

Full details including times on bottom right side of first page of newsletter.

Bats of Giant City

Sept. 30, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

University of Illinois Wildlife Extension Specialist, Joy O'Keefe, knows bats and what better place to learn about our flying furry friends than at Giant City State Park! The presentation will begin with a short talk to be followed by a walk, with acoustic bat detectors, along a trail.

Registration required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Ctr. for more details or to register at 618.457.4836

Giant City St. Pk. offers: How to Get Over Your Fear of Snakes

Oct. 1, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

For many folks, encountering a snake can be a frightening experience. Join Jeremy Schumacher, Forester and reptile enthusiast, as he discusses these often-misunderstood creatures. This program will be held in a controlled with a variety of live species. Registration required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Ctr. for more details or to register at 618.457.4836

2nd Saturday Monthly Birding with SIAS

Oct. 8th Outing at Bogart Point, CONWR, 9:00-11:00 AM

Directions (from Carbondale, IL Rt. 13): Take IL-13 east to S Division St in Carterville, turn right/south onto Division. Take Division to Old Rt. 13 then turn left/east. Take Old Rt. 13 to N Wolf Creek Rd. Turn right/south onto N Wolf Creek Rd. Continue south to the causeway. Turn left/west into parking lot. Walk to the point

NOTE— Day use passes are required on Crab Orchard Refuge and can be purchased at the Headquarters Bldg. Purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp for \$25 provides the bearer with a year pass to the Refuge. For seniors over 62, a lifetime recreation pass is \$80.

Crab Orchard NWR 75th Anniversary Celebration

Sat., Oct. 8th, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, established on August 5, 1947, will hold a 75th Anniversary Celebration and Community Fair on Oct. 8th at the new Refuge Headquarters, at the south end of Headquarters Rd., south off Pigeon Creek Rd. Fun and entertainment for all ages is planned.

There will be live music, kayaking, a fishing simulator, and a Discovery Auto Tour as well as a picnic lunch and a cake cutting. Information booths will be provided by Friends of Crab Orchard, Giant City State Park, Rend Lake, the Shawnee National Forest, Williamson County Historical Society, the IL Dept of Natural Resources, and others.

For more info, contact the Refuge at 618.997.3344 or visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CrabOrchardNWR>

Fall Migration Mini Sit the Cache

Sat., Oct. 15, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

You are invited to attend the 5th annual Fall Migration "Mini-Sit". A "mini-sit" is a bird watching event where our objective is to record as many bird species as we can by sight and sound for a set 3-hour period. Birdwatchers of all levels are invited to sit back, relax, and enjoy fall migration. Pack your binoculars or scope, camera, lawn chair, snacks and a lunch to enjoy the event. Each team will choose an eBird hotspot within the Cache River Watershed and sit in a "24 foot" diameter circle tallying all birds seen within and from the circle. Groups are limited to ten participants per hotspot. Then, bring your own bagged lunch and lawn chairs to the Cache River Wetlands Center: 8885 IL-37, Cypress, IL 62923, for a socially-distanced picnic outdoors from noon to 1:30 p.m. The picnic allows communication across teams, so we can share our sightings. Register online for your eBird hotspot at: go.illinois.edu/minisit or emailing Kim Rohling at kimrohli@illinois.edu. Teams must pre-register their locations by Tuesday, Oct. 11. Maps and directions to your hotspot will be emailed to you. If you have questions, contact Kimberly.

Join Rhonda Rothrock for a Cache Mini Sit on Oct. 15th!

Consider participating in the 5th annual Cache Fall Migration Mini Sit on Oct. 15th from 9 a.m. - noon! This citizen science birdwatching event invites birders of all experience levels to enjoy fall migration. To join Rhonda and other members of SIAS, register for the North Cypress Access hotspot at go.illinois.edu/minisit. Online registration closes on Tuesday, Oct. 11. Phone registration will be open until the day of the event, call 618.657.2064 (or Rhonda at 618.684.6605.)

North Cypress Access is located along Fain Lane. From the Intersection of IL Rt. 146 & IL Rt. 37, turn south onto IL Rt. 37. Go 3.8 miles to Bear Branch Rd., turn left (southeast). Drive Bear Branch to Old Cypress Rd., turn left (east). Drive Old Cypress Rd to Snake Hole Ln, turn right (south). Drive Snake Hole Ln to Fain Ln, turn left (east). Drive straight on Fain Ln to North Cypress Access parking lot.

August SIAS Program Highlights continued:

The bird species involved are all of those that are detected as breeding in the forest. They represent birds that nest and/or forage in different strata within the forest such as those that nest exclusively on the ground, those that nest in shrubs, those that nest in the sub-canopy or the canopy, and also species that are more general in their use of the forest strata. Not surprisingly, those species that depend on the leaf litter for nesting or foraging are the most likely to have reduced numbers in management units that are frequently burned or in the breeding season immediately after prescribed fire occurs. Numbers of most shrub and canopy nesting species in units managed with thinning or light harvest are either similar to or greater than in non-managed units. The greatest breeding bird species diversity occurred in units managed with light harvest and prescribed fire. In many instances, initial decreases immediately after prescribed fire were reversed just a year or two later. It is important for managed forests to be managed as a mosaic whereby management units within the forest are not all treated the same way at the same time. This allows for breeding bird species to shuffle between units if necessary if a particular type of forest management temporarily displaces them.

The individual species responses to the treatment types vary, but nearly all show positive or mixed responses to the types of forest management being employed. Thinning and/or controlled burning seems a valuable potential tool in achieving forest management goals of having better recruitment of oak and hickories. These management practices, while being done to benefit the composition and structure of the plants in the forest, are also having mostly positive or neutral effects on the breeding birds residing in the forests.

As second study Jeff discussed was nest monitoring in areas of the Cache between 2010-2012 where lots of land had been acquired and reforested. They found the number of nests increased nearly 30% when compared to data from surveys conducted between 1993-1995 prior to the acquisitions. Seven bird species were monitored, including Acadian flycatcher, indigo bunting, prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, and northern cardinals. The more edge on the established forest that was reduced by growth of young forest on newly acquired land surrounding or adjoining the older forest, the lower the percent of cowbird parasitism. The amount of parasitism decreased nearly 72% on forests completely surrounded by new young forest. Where the older forest was not completely surrounded by new forest, with some of the older forest boundary still directly exposed to unforested land, parasitism decreased only slightly.

Jeff has spent much of his life immersed in the swamps and forests of southernmost Illinois. His prothonotary warbler studies in the Cache River Wetland helped inspire the Birding Blitz and its signature species. All who live here, whether as permanently residents or as feathered seasonal migrants, are forever grateful for Jeff's devotion. *-Rhonda R.*



2022 IOS Big Sit Competition and Fundraiser Friday, September 23 - Sunday, September 25

pages.donately.com/illinoisornithologicalsociety/campaign/ios-big-sit-fundraiser-2022

Four Ways to Enjoy Fall Birds *from Environment Americas*

We are smack dab in the middle of fall bird migration here in North America. And what an exciting time it is! At the Front Range of Colorado, it seems that every other bird is a Wilson's Warbler, which is fun, and local reservoirs are attracting some shorebird goodies, with recent sightings of Black-bellied Plover and even Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

The species you encounter will vary based on your location, of course. But birds are on the move—adults are returning to their wintering sites after breeding, and young birds just born this summer are embarking on their first journey south. And they're passing through our backyards and parks. Here are ways you can make the most of this exciting time of year.

Watch frequently. Birds are on the move right now, and every day presents a fresh opportunity to see different birds in your backyard or along your favorite trail. Try to squeeze in a few minutes whenever you can, because you never know when you'll be surprised by an unexpected species. Pay special attention to water—a backyard drip, a creek, a pond's edge—as water tends to attract and hold migrant birds.

Follow migration forecasts. Radar technology allows us to track the movements of birds (and bats and insects) and the internet makes it easy for anyone to follow along at home. BirdCast < <https://birdcast.info> > offers maps and other tools to see how many birds are moving on any given night. It's a great way to better understand nocturnal bird migration and to predict when and where will be best to go birding.

Visit a hawk watch. Hundreds of thousands of raptors are cruising over designated hawk watch sites < <https://hawkcount.org> > throughout Canada, the U.S., Mexico, and beyond, where hawk counters are documenting every bird. Enjoy the spectacle of fall raptor migration while contributing to science. < <https://www.hmana.org/international-hawk-migration-week/> >

Go with friends. Birding is a fun activity to do on your own but is even better when shared with others. Particularly during fall, when many birds have swapped their familiar summer colors for drab winter plumage, it helps to have multiple observers to help nail down those tricky IDs.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Offers New Public Access to Hunting and Fishing on National Wildlife Refuge System Lands

On Sept. 15th, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced new hunting and fishing opportunities for game species at 18 national wildlife refuges on approximately 38,000 acres nationwide, including Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, as part of the Administration's efforts to increase recreational access on public lands.

The Service remains concerned that lead ammunition and fishing tackle have negative impacts on both human health and wildlife and will continue to evaluate their future use on Service lands and waters through a transparent public process. The new rule does not include any opportunities that would increase the use of lead on refuge lands and waters beyond fall 2026.

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$156 billion in economic activity in communities across the United States in 2016, according to the Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published every five years.

The Refuge System is an unparalleled network of 568 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. There is a national wildlife refuge within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas – hosting some 65 million visits every year – almost all offering free admittance year-round. National wildlife refuges provide vital habitat for thousands of species and access to world-class recreation, from fishing, hunting and boating to nature watching, photography and environmental education.

To Join SIAS or Renew Your Membership, please fill in this form and return it with payment. Thank You!

Individual Member \$15
 Family \$25
 Student Voting Member \$ 5
 Donation \$ _____
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Your Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____

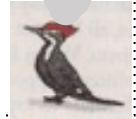
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I/We would like to receive our newsletter via email: YES / NO

If you receive your newsletter electronically,
 contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.

(Morse Code for: Don't forget to renew your dues!) ☺

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There are striking differences between a National Forest and a National Park
 that signify history and even shape American laws.

For example, bring your dog to a National Forest and enjoy the scenery together, bring your dog to a National Park, and you could find yourself escorted from the property! In most parks, pets are not allowed on trails and in wilderness areas — this is for their own protection as well as that of the local plant and animal life. But there are some areas within national parks that are pet-friendly, where you can spend quality time with man's best friend. It's important to follow B.A.R.K. ranger principles when taking your pet on a park trip. <https://www.nationalparks.org/connect/blog/dont-leave-fido-home>

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**THE SKY IS NOT FALLING! THAT'S JUST A CROCK
 OF ALARMIST PROPAGANDA FROM A BUNCH OF
 LEFT WING ENVIRONMENTALIST WACKOS!**



Chicken Little, Age 50

**Southern Illinois Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 222
 Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,
 the Illinois Environmental Council,
 & the North American Bluebird Society*

